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NEWS RELEASE

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WASHINGTON COUNTY TO ENTER CLOSED FIRE SEASON ONE MONTH EARLY

Rest of State to Follow June 1, 2007

While Utah's closed fire season officially begins June 1st of each year, Washington County's closed fire season will take effect a month early on May 1st and will remain in effect until October 31, 2007.

A closed fire season is not the same as a fire restriction order. The closed fire season order requires that any open burning be done only by first securing a permit. Permits are available from county fire wardens, county fire chiefs, county sheriff's offices and through offices of the Division of Forestry, Fire and State Lands.

"Open burning presents a potentially hazardous situation as our weather continues to warm, and in the case of Washington County there are widespread residual fuels remaining from last year's growing season," explained Acting State Forester Dick Buehler. "With proper precautions it is still possible to conduct open burning operations, but we ask that a permit be obtained so we can ensure it is done safely."

For more information contact local offices of the Division of Forestry, Fire and State Lands or the state office at (801) 538-5555.

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